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Rural development is a universal phenomenon and widely acclaimed by developed and developing countries. It remained a focal point for Sociologists, Economists and Policy-makers, Administrators and others. IRDP stressed to improve the quality of life in rural areas in terms of per capita income, gainful employment, education, health and nutrition, housing, family size and so on. Stress was also laid on to develop agriculture and allied activities viz., village and cottage industries, traditional crafts, socio-economic infrastructure and community services. In India, rural development had received foremost attention both at national and state level and sizable funds had been invested under the programme. The main objective was to bring the poor families above poverty line on a lasting basis by assisting them through income generating assets and training. But, in spite of the efforts made under the programme, the quality of rural life had not improved up to a satisfactory level. The increase in birth rate and decline in death rate had put heavy pressure over the economic resources and a serious threat to all developmental efforts made under the programme. The improvement in the basic necessities of life e.g., housing, pure drinking water, nutritious food, gainful employment, health and hygiene, education and so on had not kept pace with the needs of rural people.
Many studies were conducted to assess the various dimensions of IRDP. But, there was no comprehensive review which might give an insight about social implications of IRDP. The present study was focussed in that direction. Since IRDP was a popular programme in Kashmir Valley, the beneficiaries were provided with income generation assets and training. Loans were granted on subsidy basis for different schemes related to poultry, fishery, handicrafts and other small and medium scale industries. The aim of the programme was to enhance the income of beneficiaries on a lasting basis, so that they could cross the BPL status. It was in this sense that it became desirable to know for a social researcher to examine its various implications.

In the backdrop of social dimensions of IRDP in the state, the present study focused to see various social implications of IRDP in Kashmir Valley with special emphasis on Block Ganderbal in District Srinagar. This study seriously intended to know about the changing situation of the block adopting an extensive approach. The study was carried out through a micro-sociological framework and the main focus was to see as to what extent people in the concerned block had undergone social change as a result of IRDP. The change among the people of the block had been studied through the important sociological variables viz. economy, education, housing, women, sanitation and hygiene, family, health, dress, land reform and social conflict.
The whole study was divided into eight chapters. The first chapter was an introductory part of the study and it focussed on the concept, objectives, administrative set - up and procedure for implementation of IRDP. Further, some light was thrown on IRDP at the Indian level as well as J & K level. Some hypotheses were also developed. The second chapter focussed on review of literature. In total 20 selected books were reviewed. The third chapter highlighted the Sociological profile of block Ganderbal. This chapter focussed on the area, population, economy, social institutions, social stratification, dress pattern, food habits, religion and pattern of entertainment, medical facilities and status of women of Ganderbal block. The fourth chapter was about methodology. This chapter identified the theoretical orientation of the methodology part. Some relevant theories were applied to assess the social implications of IRDP. Further, the methodology part discussed the universe of the study, sources of information, sample of the study, field work, survey technique, variables used, data processing and analysis and difficulties faced. The fifth and sixth chapter explained findings of the study based on extensive field work in sociological frame work. In that context the fifth chapter explained direct social implications of IRDP and sixth chapter explained indirect social implications of IRDP. The seventh chapter encapsulated the themes of discussions made in the preceding chapters. The eighth chapter highlighted the suggestions and action points.